GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1162
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2003
DELHI METRO RAIL
A. VENKATESH NAIK;ALE NARENDRA;ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;RAMSHETH THAKUR;VINAY KUMAR SORAKE

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVATION be pleased to state:

(a) the break-even passenger carrying capacity of Delhi Metro Rail projected per day for viable operations;

(b) whether at this route, Delhi Metro will be able to generate enough income to repay the contractual loan obligations in long term;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Delhi Metro Rail operations areshowing discouraging patronage as some major technical snag developed immediately after it started;

(e) if so, the facts thereof;

(f) the reasons therefor and the corrective measures taken in this direction;

(g) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned ` Metro unsafe says Rly panel; no says DMRC` appearing in the Hindustan Times dated December 14, 2002;

(h) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(i) the reasons for declaring Metro trains unsafe by Railway panel;

(j) the studies conducted by Research, Design and Standards Organisation regarding the safety of trains; and

(k) the steps taken to make Metro trains safe and ensure their uninterrupted running?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT & POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNA)

(a): 21.82 lakh passenger trips per day on the completion of the project in 2005.

(b): Yes, Sir. With the expected ridership of 21.82 lakh passenger trips per day, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (DMRC) will be in a position to meet its obligation for repayment of the loans taken for this project.

(c):
(i) About 64% cost of this project is being funded by a soft loan from the Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC), which carries moratorium of 10 years and repayment period of 20 years from the date of the loan agreement. The loan is disbursed by JBIC in tranches and each tranche is treated as a separate loan and the moratorium and the repayment apply to each tranche separately. For the first tranche, the loan carries an interest rate of 2.3% and for the subsequent tranches the interest rate is 1.8%.

(ii) About 5% of the project cost (which covers the cost of land) is in the shape of interest-free subordinate loan provided in equal proportion by the Government of India and the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi. This loan is to be re-paid after the repayment of the principal loan from JBIC is complete.

(d)to(f): Only the first section from Shahdara to Tis Hazari of the project has been commissioned so far. There were some minor teething problems in operating this section which have since been sorted out.

(g): Yes, Sir.

(h)to(k): Railway`s Research Design & Standards Organisation (RDSO) had conducted oscillation and emergency braking distance trials for metro coaches. RDSO, on the basis of these trials, had concluded that the coaches exhibited satisfactory ride characteristics on the newly laid track of Shahdara-Tis Hazari section on straight lengths as well as on the curves, subject to certain conditions and observations. DMRC also obtained comments from AEA Technology, U.K. (formerly British Rail Research Institute) and MRTC, Hong Kong as well as the manufacturers of the coaches on these observations of RDSO, whichwere to the effect that there was no

justifiable reasons for not bringing these coaches into commercial service at normal operating speed on safety grounds.

Subsequently, the Commissioner of Railway Safety inspected thecoaches and examined the comments of RDSO, AEATechnology, U.K.and MRTC, Hong Kong and the Consultants engaged byDMRC andpermitted introduction of these coaches in commercial service at a speed of 50 km/h. Following this, regular commercial services on Shahdara-Tis Hazari section commenced with effect from 25th December, 2002. On the inaugural day, there was very heavy rush in the train which caused minor problems in running metro train. These problems have been sorted out and at present the trains are running smoothly.